

Service for use at home on 8 September 2023

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

The 'Reader' may be the most senior person present – e.g. a parent or grandparent, according to the situation – or simply the most confident reader or singer. The parts marked for the 'Choir' can be read or sung by everyone together, or by one person alone. Music for some parts may be found on the website: www.orthodoxcommunityrugby.com/choir/ If no one present is a confident singer, the service can be chanted on one note, or simply read. You may prefer to use parts of the service in your own language. If so, please make sure that the prayers are read from an Orthodox prayer book or service book.

Before the Service

If possible, the Service should be said in front of the household icons – e.g. in the family icon corner. If practical, and if they are available, a Cross and a Book of the Gospels (or a copy of New Testament, or a Bible) should be placed on a table in front of the icons. A lamp or candle, and incense, if available, should be lit before the Service begins.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

In place of the GREAT LITANY, the choir sings:
Lord, have mercy. (x 12)

FIRST ANTIPHON

[Music on website]

Choir: O Lord, remember David in all his meekness.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

We heard of it at Ephratah, we found it in the fields of the wood. **Through the prayers ...**

Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. **Through the prayers ...**

God is in the midst of her; she will not be moved. God will help her when the morning dawns. **Through the prayers ...**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Through the prayers ...**

In place of the LITTLE LITANY, the choir sings:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

SECOND ANTIPHON

[Music on website]

Choir: The Lord swore an oath to David, from which He shall not turn back.

O Son of God, glorified in Thy Saints, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Of the fruit of thy body, I will set upon thy throne.

O Son of God, glorified in Thy Saints, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

There I will make the horn of David flourish; I have ordained a lamp for my anointed.

O Son of God, glorified in Thy Saints, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation.

O Son of God, glorified in Thy Saints, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O only-begotten Son and Word of God. O Thou Who art Immortal, yet for our salvation didst deign to be incarnate of the holy Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary; and without change wast made man; Who also wast crucified for us; and by death didst overcome death: save us, O Christ, our God; one Person of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

In place of the LITTLE LITANY, the choir sings:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

THIRD ANTIPHON

Reader: Here I will dwell for I have desired it.

Troparion of the Nativity of the Theotokos in Tone 4

[Music on website]

Thy nativity, O Virgin,

has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!

The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,

has shone from thee, O Theotokos.

By annulling the curse,

He bestowed a blessing.//

By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Reader: The Most High has sanctified His tabernacle.

Choir: *Thy nativity, O Virgin ...*

Reader: Holy is Thy temple and wonderful in righteousness.

Choir: *Thy nativity, O Virgin ...*

ENTRANCE HYMN

Choir: O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O Son of God, Who art **wonderful in Thy Saints**, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

TROPARION & KONTAKION

Troparion of the Nativity of the Theotokos in Tone 4 [\[Music on website\]](#)

Thy nativity, O Virgin,
has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!
The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,
has shone from thee, O Theotokos.
By annulling the curse,
He bestowed a blessing.//
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion of the Nativity of the Theotokos in Tone 4 [\[Music on website\]](#)

By thy nativity, most pure Virgin,
Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness,
Adam and Eve from the corruption of death.
And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee:
“The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

THE TRISAGION

Choir: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (x 3)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now
and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

PROKEIMENON

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Third Tone.

Reader: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in
God my Saviour.

Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in
God my Saviour.

Reader: For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden; for
behold, from henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in
God my Saviour.

Reader: My soul doth magnify the Lord

Choir: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

EPISTLE

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the
Philippians [Philippians 2:5-11]

Ye Brethren: Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ
Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with
God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a
servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human
form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death
on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him
the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every
knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every
tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

ALLELUIA

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: The rich among the people shall pray before Thy face.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

*All stand for the reading of the Gospel. The Gospel may be read by the most
senior person present – e.g. a parent or grandparent – according to the
situation.*

Reader: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Choir: Glory be to Thee, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Reader: At that time: Jesus entered a village; and a woman called Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve you alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" [Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28]

Choir: Glory be to Thee, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Instead of the AUGMENTED LITANY, the Choir sings:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER TO THE LORD OF HOSTS

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. *(All make a deep reverence)*

Remember us, O Master, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. *(Reverence)*

Remember us, O Holy One, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. *(Reverence)*

The heavenly choir sings to Thee, and cries: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Come unto Him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir sings to Thee, and cries: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The choir of holy Angels and Archangels, with all the Powers of heaven, sing Thy praises and do cry: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE CREED (SYMBOL OF FAITH)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made; of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Ghost and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father;

Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets.

In One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.

And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Reader: O God, remit, pardon and forgive our sins, whether voluntary or involuntary, whether by words or deeds, whether in knowledge or ignorance, whether by day or night, whether in mind or thought; forgive us all these, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (x 12)

All-holy Trinity, Mighty one in essence, Kingdom undivided, origin of all good things, be graciously inclined also to me, a sinner. Establish me; give understanding to my heart, and purge away all my vileness. Enlighten my mind, that I may glorify, sing praises, and adore Thee, and say:

Choir: One is Holy,/ One is Lord,/ Jesus Christ,/ to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Choir: Blessed be the Name of the Lord, from this time forth and for evermore. (x 3)

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PSALM 33

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to Him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in Him! O fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no want. The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. Come, O sons, listen to me, I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there who

desires life, and covets many days, that he may enjoy good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and his ears toward their cry. The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of them all. He kept all his bones; not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked; and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

THE ZADOSTOYNIK

[[Music on website](#)]

Magnify, O my soul,
the most glorious Nativity of the Mother of God!
Virginity is foreign to mothers;
childbearing is strange for virgins.
But in thee, O Theotokos,
both were accomplished.
For this, all the earthly nations
unceasingly magnify thee.

THE DISMISSAL

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Bless, O Lord.

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercessions of Thine all-immaculate and all-blameless Holy Mother, whose Nativity we celebrate; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplications of our Holy, Venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of our Father among the Saints, Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Patron and Protector of this Community; of the Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

All kiss the Gospel Book (or New Testament, or Bible) and the Cross placed on the table. When all have done so, the reader or choir sings slowly:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.